

AMENDMENT TO H.R.
OFFERED BY MR. MARKEY AND MR. BURTON OF
INDIANA

Insert at the end the following new section:

1 **SEC. . SURGEON GENERAL REVIEW OF EFFECT ON JUVE-**
2 **NILES OF VIOLENCE IN MEDIA.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

4 (1) the tragic killings at a high school in Colo-
5 rado remind us that violence in America continues to
6 occur at unacceptable levels for a civilized society;

7 (2) the relationship of violent messages deliv-
8 ered through such popular media as television, radio,
9 film, recordings, video games, advertising, the Inter-
10 net, and other outlets of mass culture, to self-de-
11 structive or violent behavior by children or young
12 adults towards themselves, such as suicide, or to vio-
13 lence directed at others, has been studied intensely
14 both by segments of the media industry itself and by
15 academic institutions;

16 (3) the same media used to deliver messages
17 which harm our children can also be used to deliver
18 messages which promote positive behavior;

19 (4) much of this research has occurred in the
20 17 years since the last major review and report of

1 the literature was assembled by the National Insti-
2 tute on Mental Health published in 1982;

3 (5) the Surgeon General of the United States
4 last issued a comprehensive report on violence and
5 the media in 1972; and

6 (6) the number, pervasiveness, and sophistica-
7 tion of technological avenues for delivering messages
8 through the media to young people has expanded
9 rapidly since these 2 reports.

10 (b) COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Sur-
11 geon General, in cooperation with the National Institute
12 of Mental Health, and such other sources of expertise as
13 the Surgeon General deems appropriate, shall undertake
14 a comprehensive review of published research, analysis,
15 studies, and other sources of reliable information concern-
16 ing the impact on the health and welfare of children and
17 young adults of violent messages delivered through such
18 popular media as television, radio, recordings, video
19 games, advertising, the Internet, and other outlets of mass
20 culture.

21 (c) REPORT.—The Surgeon General shall issue a re-
22 port based on the review required by subsection (b). Such
23 report shall include, but not be limited to, findings and
24 recommendations concerning what can be done to mitigate
25 any harmful affects on children and young adults from

1 the violent messages described in such subsection, and the
2 identification of gaps in the research that should be filled.

3 (d) DEADLINES.—The review required by subsection
4 (b) shall be completed in no more than 1 year, and the
5 report required by subsection (c) shall be issued no later
6 than 6 months following completion of the review.